

CLAIMS

1. An oil pan for an engine comprising:

a plurality of substantially parallel, spaced-apart reinforcement channels extending from adjacent a first end of the oil pan to adjacent a second end of the oil pan, each channel having a base and two sides and an open top, the channels tapering downwardly from the first end and the second end towards an accumulation area of the oil pan.

2. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein the reinforcement channels are substantially U shaped.

3. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein the reinforcement channels are V-shaped.

4. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein the second end of the oil pan has an end surface which is substantially planar.

5. The oil pan of claim 4, wherein said end surface has no tool access pockets therein.

6. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein adjacent the second end and intermediate the width of the second end, the oil pan has a region of reduced height, and wherein the region of reduced height having a planar portion into which the at least one reinforcing channel does not extend.

7. The oil pan of claim 6, wherein the planar portion is adapted to releasably receive thereon a horizontal portion of a substantially L-shaped cover plate.

8. The oil pan of claim 7, wherein the cover plate has a substantially upright portion such that when the cover plate is mounted on the planar portion, the substantially upright portion is substantially coplanar with the end surface.

9. The oil pan of claim 8, wherein the substantially upright portion has a securing flange at an end thereof remote from the horizontal portion.

10. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein the taper is created by curving the channels with a large radius of curvature.

11. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein the radius of curvature is 2000mm.

12. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein the oil pan has a main body, the main body having two side walls, a first end wall, and a base, and wherein the accumulation area is integral with the base.

13. The oil pan of claim 12, wherein the oil pan has a region of reduced height and the main body has a second end wall which tapers into the region of reduced height.

14. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein there are no channels in the accumulation area.

15. The oil pan of claim 12, wherein the channels extend up the first end wall but at a reducing height up the first end wall.

16. The oil pan of claim 12, wherein the channels along the base are of a height which is less than their height in the region of reduced height.

17. The oil pan of claim 1, wherein there are three channels.

18. The oil pan of claim 7, wherein the cover plate has an upright portion, the upright portion having a securing flange at an end thereof remote from the horizontal portion.

19. The oil pan of claim 18, wherein the upright portion is substantially coplanar with the end surface.

20. The oil pan of claim 18, wherein a plurality of bolt holes are provided in each of the securing flange and the horizontal portion.

21. The oil pan of claim 20, wherein bolt holes are not provided in the upright portion.